

IN THE CLAIMS

1-17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for inducing chondro-/ostrogenic lineage and promoting of cartilage or bone formation in a person comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor, wherein said melanoma inhibiting activity factor is MIA, and at least one biocompatible or biodegradable matrix selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, calcium sulfate, tricalcium phosphate, hydroxyapatite, polylactic-coglycolid, polyanhydrides and collagen to a person in need thereof.

19. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor, wherein said melanoma inhibiting activity factor is (MIA), in combination with an osteoinductive protein, wherein said osteoinductive protein is selected from the group consisting of BMP-2, BMP-7 and a hedgehog protein.

20. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ratio of osteoinductive protein : MIA is 1 : 1 to 1 : 20.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the composition comprises a biocompatible matrix.

23. (currently amended) A method for inducing chondro-/ostrogenic lineage and promoting of cartilage or bone formation in a person comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor, wherein said melanoma inhibiting activity factor is MIA, and at least one biocompatible and/or biodegradable matrix selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, calcium sulfate, tricalcium phosphate, hydroxyapatite, polylactic-coglycolid, polyanhydrides and collagen, wherein the biocompatible matrix is at least one member selected from the group

consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, collagen, heparin, polylactic-coglycolid and polyactic-coglycolid derivatives.

24. (currently amended) A method of inducing of the chondro-/osteogenic lineage and promoting cartilage and/or bone formation comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor, wherein said melanoma inhibiting activity factor is MIA, at least one biocompatible or biodegradable matrix selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, calcium sulfate, tricalcium phosphate, hydroxylapatite, polylactic-coglycolid, polyanhydrides and collagen, and an osteoinductive protein selected from the group consisting of BMP-2, BMP-7 and a hedgehog protein to a subject.

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the ratio of osteoinductive protein : MIA is 1 : 1 to 1:20.

28. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein said ~~melanoma inhibiting activity factor~~ (MIA) is combined with said biocompatible matrix.

29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said biocompatible matrix comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, alginate, collagen, heparin, polylactic-coglycolid and polylactic-coglycolid derivatives.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) A method of treating or repairing at least one of bone or cartilage in a patient comprising administering an effective amount of a melanoma inhibiting activity factor, wherein said melanoma inhibiting activity factor is (MIA)₂ to the patient to repair the bone or cartilage.

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, further comprising co-administering an osteoinductive protein.

35. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a melanoma inhibiting activity factor, wherein said melanoma inhibiting activity factor is (MIA)₂ and a biocompatible matrix, wherein said biocompatible matrix is a three dimensional sponge prepared from collagen, alginate, tricalcium phosphate, and hydroxyapatite.

36. (cancelled)

37. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 35, wherein the biocompatible matrix comprises at least one matrix material selected from the group consisting of alginate, tricalcium phosphate, hyaluronic acid, and calcium sulfate.